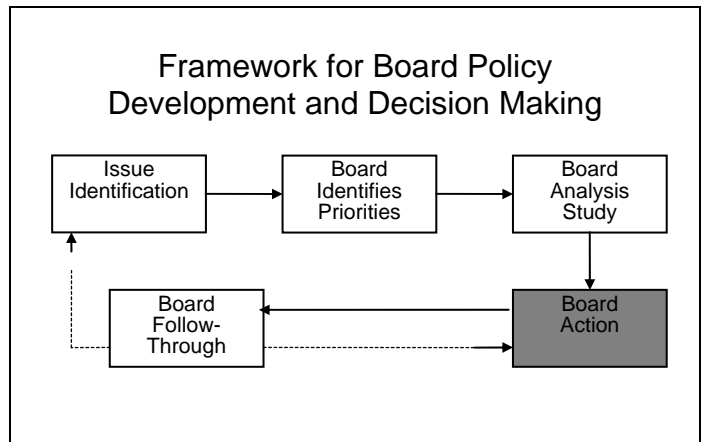


# Iowa State Board of Education

## Executive Summary

September 11, 2008



**Agenda Item:** Chapter 103 rules, Corporal Punishment (Adopt)

**Iowa Goal:** 2. All K-12 students will achieve at a high level.

**Equity Impact Statement:** All school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and area education agencies are governed by the law banning corporal punishment and its rules.

**Presenter:** Thomas Mayes, Consultant  
Bureau of Student and Family Support Services

**Attachments:** 1

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board adopt the following amendments to Chapter 103.

**Background:** Iowa Code section 280.21 requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the general statutory ban on corporal punishment and the exceptions. The chapter has not been reviewed since 1991. In recent years there has been much research regarding seclusion (“time out” rooms) and restraint of students. These proposed amendments provide more detail than is presently in the current rule (103.6) regarding allowable parameters when a student is physically confined or detained.

## **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT [281]**

### **Adopted and Filed**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education amends Chapter 103, "Corporal Punishment Ban," Iowa Administrative Code.

Iowa Code section 280.21 requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the general statutory ban on corporal punishment and the exceptions. Chapter 103 has not been reviewed since 1991. In recent years, there has been much research regarding seclusion ("time out" rooms) and restraint of students. These amendments provide more detail than is presently in the current rule (103.6(280)) regarding allowable parameters when a student is physically restrained or confined and detained.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on June 18, 2008 as ARC #6838B. Twenty-one written public comments were received, and five persons made oral comments at the public hearing (which originated in the ICN Room on the second floor of the Grimes State Office Building and was narrowcast at nine remote ICN sites across the State) held on July 8, 2008. Public comments were allowed until close of business on July 8, 2008. Comments were received in favor and support of the proposed rulemaking. Many commentators supported most of the rulemaking, but had concerns or reservations about particular portions of the rulemaking.

Several commentators expressed concern that the proposed rules would restrict such practices as seat detention and in-school suspension. That not being the intent of the State Board, the text has been revised by defining "physical confinement and detention" and clarifying the chapter's application to physical confinement and detention.

Two commentators requested clarification of what a "dangerous instrument" was. The text has been revised to indicate that dangerousness of an instrument is based on the facts of each instance of physical confinement and detention. Other commentators requested clarification of other words in the proposed rulemaking, such as "reasonable" and "adequate." Based on the underlying statute, in which reasonableness is embedded as a constant theme, it is impractical to attempt the requested further definition. What is reasonable or adequate shall be determined based on the facts at hand.

Several commentators requested additional requirements about assessing the need for continued physical confinement and detention, suggesting that a school nurse or a person designated in a

student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) be responsible for such assessment. While a school nurse may provide useful information concerning such continued need, there is no data suggesting a school nurse is the sole professional capable of making such an assessment. Furthermore, while an IEP may name a person or position responsible for monitoring an eligible individual's physical confinement and detention, the State Board considers it essential that an administrator or designee be involved in decisions about lengthy restraint. No change is made.

The proposed rulemaking's training requirement received much favorable comment. One commentator suggested adding debriefing of students and staff as a training topic. The State Board concurs in this suggestion. Debriefing may be an essential means by which future physical confinement and detention or restraint is avoided. The same commentator requested that any documentation include results of student and staff debriefing. For the same reasons, the State Board concurs in this suggestion. The text of the rulemaking is changed accordingly.

Several commentators asserted that the notification requirement should be amended to provide notice to parents on the day of the instance of restraint or of physical confinement and detention. The rationales advanced by the commentators are convincing. The text of the rulemaking is amended to require school officials to attempt to notify parents on the day of the instance, with written documentation to be provided within three days.

Several commentators suggested that time limits imposed on physical confinement and detention be shortened. The State Board concludes the limits contained in the rulemaking strike an appropriate balance between student safety and the safe and effective operation of schools. No changes are made. One commentator requested that the rulemaking include a specific time in which contact with an administrator (or designee) must be made. The State Board concludes such an addition is unnecessary. The time at which an administrator is contacted is left to the discretion of the local entity, so long as approval is obtained prior to the expiration of sixty minutes or a typical class period, whichever is shorter. No change is made.

One commentator asked the State Board to require videotaping of all periods of physical confinement and detention. While that may be prudent and certainly within the discretion of local entity, the State Board does not view this proposed requirement as necessary to protect the interests of students and education entities. No change is made.

Several commentators requested a ban on all seclusion and restraint. These requests are inconsistent with the enabling statute. No changes are made.

Several commentators expressed concern about the proposed rulemaking's ban on prone restraints. While not opposing the ban, the commentators expressed reservations about the ban's interplay with the immunity provision contained in the underlying statute. To address those concerns, the State Board modifies proposed rule 103.8 to account for those concerns. Based on the expressed concern that the text prohibiting any practice that "otherwise impairs breathing" is too broad, the State Board deletes that text. The text prohibiting any restraint that obstructs the airway of a child accounts for the harm to be addressed by the proposed rule, while leaving other restraints subject to the reasonableness standard currently contained in chapter 103.

Based on technical assistance received from the Iowa Department of Public Safety and in light of fire code concerns, all references to key-operated locking mechanisms are removed.

All other suggested changes are inconsistent with the underlying statute, are inconsistent with other state and federal education laws, or are adequately addressed by the text of the rulemaking.

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 256B.3 and 280.21. These amendments become effective November 12, 2008.

The following amendments are adopted.

**ITEM 1.** Amend **281—Chapter 103**, title, as follows:

#### CHAPTER 103

#### CORPORAL PUNISHMENT BAN; RESTRAINT; PHYSICAL CONFINEMENT AND DETENTION

**ITEM 2.** Amend **281—Chapter 103**, parenthetical implementation statutes, as follows:

(256B,280)

**ITEM 3.** Amend rule **281—103.1(256B,280)** as follows:

**281—103.1(256B,280) Purpose.** In conjunction with Iowa Code ~~Supplement~~ section 280.21, the purpose of this chapter is to define and exemplify generally the limitations placed on employees of

public schools, accredited nonpublic schools, and area education agencies in applying physical contact or force to enrolled students, and to require that any such force or contact is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances. These rules also provide requirements for administrators and staff of public schools, accredited nonpublic schools, and area education agencies regarding the use of physical restraints and physical confinement and detention. The applicability of this chapter to physical restraint or physical confinement and detention does not depend on the terminology employed by the organization to describe physical restraint or physical confinement and detention.

**ITEM 4.** Amend rule **281—103.3(256B,280)** as follows:

**281—103.3(256B,280) Exclusions.** Corporal punishment does not include the following:

1. Verbal recrimination or chastisement directed toward a student;
2. Reasonable requests or requirements of a student engaged in activities associated with physical education class or extracurricular athletics;
3. Actions consistent with and included in an individualized ~~educational~~ education program developed under the ~~Education for All Handicapped Children Act and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as reauthorized,~~ Iowa Code chapter 256B, and 281—Chapter 41; however, under no circumstance shall an individualized education program violate the provisions of this chapter;
4. ~~Detention~~ Reasonable periods of detention, not in excess of school hours or brief periods of before and after school detention, in a seat, classroom or other part of a school facility, unless the detention is accomplished by the use of material restraints applied to the person; If detention meets this chapter's definition of "physical confinement and detention," this chapter's provisions on physical confinement and detention must be followed. For purposes of this chapter, material restraints do not include devices, objects, or techniques required or ordered for reasons of safety (e.g., safety harnesses on school buses) or for therapeutic or medical treatment (e.g., devices used for physical or occupational therapy), provided those devices, objects, or techniques are so used, and used for no other purpose;
5. Actions by an employee subject to these rules toward a person who is not a student of the school or receiving the services of an area education agency employing or utilizing the services of the employee.

ITEM 5. Amend rule **281—103.6(256B,280)** as follows:

**281—103.6(256B,280) Physical confinement and detention.** If a student is physically confined ~~or~~ and detained in a portion of a school facility (defined as confinement of a student in a time-out room or some other enclosure, whether within or outside the classroom, from which the student's egress is restricted), the following conditions shall be observed:

1. The area of confinement and detention shall be of reasonable dimensions; and shall be free from hazards and dangerous objects or instruments, considering the age, size, and physical and mental condition of the student subject to confinement and detention;

2. There shall be sufficient light and adequate ventilation for human habitation;

3. A comfortable temperature shall be maintained, consistent with the facility that includes the confinement and detention area;

4. Reasonable break periods shall be afforded the student to attend to bodily needs. However, sleep shall not be considered a “bodily need” for purposes of this subrule;

5. The period of detention and confinement is reasonable, considering the age, size, and physical and mental condition of the student subject to confinement and detention, and not in excess of the hours in a school day as defined by local board policy or rule. ~~However;~~ however, reasonable periods of before- and after-school detention are permissible; If a period of physical confinement and detention exceeds the shorter of 60 minutes or the school's typical class period, staff members shall evaluate the continued need for physical confinement and detention, shall obtain administrator (or designee) approval for any continued confinement and detention beyond the initial periodic reevaluation, and shall comply with any administrator (or designee) directives concerning any continued confinement and detention;

6. Adequate and continuous adult supervision is provided;

7. Material restraints applied to the person are not used to effect confinement; ;

8. If a room or enclosure used for physical confinement and detention has a locking mechanism, such room and mechanism shall comply with all applicable building code requirements and the following additional requirements:

If a locking mechanism is used, it shall be constructed so it will engage only when a handle, knob, or other device is held in position by a person, unless the mechanism is electrically or electronically controlled and automatically releases when the building's fire alarm system is activated, the building's severe weather warning system is activated, or electrical power to the mechanism is interrupted.

When the locking mechanism is released, the door must be able to be readily opened from the inside.

If a locking mechanism requires a handle, knob, or other device to be held in position by a person before the mechanism is engaged, no person shall take any action, or cause such action to be taken, or employ any object, device, or instrument, or cause such to be employed, that disables the handle, knob or other device such that the locking mechanism engages or remains engaged without the handle, knob, or other device being held in position by a person.

**ITEM 6.** Adopt the following new rule 281—103.7(256B, 280):

**281—103.7(256B,280) Additional minimum mandatory procedures.** If a public school, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency seeks to use physical restraint, physical confinement and detention, or both, it shall do so in compliance with the minimum requirements of this chapter. The board of a public school, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency may adopt policies and procedures regarding the use of physical restraint, physical confinement and detention, or both, that exceed the minimum requirements contained in this chapter. Additional minimum mandatory procedures are as follows:

1. Physical restraint and physical confinement and detention shall not be used as discipline for minor infractions and may be used only after other disciplinary techniques have been attempted, if reasonable under the circumstances;
2. All school employees, before using physical restraint or physical confinement and detention, shall receive adequate and periodic training, which shall be documented and which shall include training on these rules and the employer's policies and procedures; positive behavior interventions and supports; disciplinary alternatives to seclusion and restraint; crisis prevention, crisis intervention,

and crisis de-escalation techniques; student and staff debriefing; and the safe and effective use of physical restraint and physical confinement and detention;

3. Parents and students are notified at least annually of this chapter and of any additional policies and procedures of the public school, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency on physical restraint and physical confinement and detention;

4. Any physical restraint shall be reasonable and necessary in duration, in light of the provisions of this chapter;

5. If a student is subjected to physical restraint or physical confinement and detention, the public school, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency shall maintain documentation for each such occurrence, which shall contain at least the following information:

The names of the student and the employees involved in the restraint, confinement, or detention, as well as the administrator who authorizes any additional periods of confinement or detention pursuant to numbered paragraph “5” of rule 103.6(256B,280);

The date, time, and duration of the occurrence;

The actions of the student before, during, and after the occurrence;

The actions of the employees involved in the occurrence before, during, and after the occurrence, including student and staff debriefing;

The alternatives to physical restraint or physical confinement and detention attempted before the occurrence;

A description of any injuries (whether to the student or others) and any property damage;

A description of future approaches to the student’s behavior;

6. The public school, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency shall attempt to notify a child’s parent or guardian on the same day the child is subjected to physical restraint or physical confinement and detention; and

7. The student’s parent or guardian must be provided a written copy of the documentation required by numbered paragraph “5” of this rule, which shall be postmarked within three school days of the occurrence. The student’s parent or guardian may elect, in writing, to receive the communication required by this subrule via electronic mail or facsimile transmission.



**ITEM 7.** Adopt the following new rule 281—103.8(256B, 280):

**281—103.8(256B,280) Additional provisions concerning physical restraint.** If an employee of a public school, accredited nonpublic school, or area education agency employs physical restraint, the following provisions shall apply:

1. No employee shall use any prone restraints (defined as those in which an individual is held face down on the floor). Employees who find themselves involved in the use of a prone restraint as the result of responding to an emergency must take immediate steps to end the prone restraint;
2. No employee shall use any restraint that obstructs the airway of any child;
3. If an employee physically restrains a student who uses sign language or an augmentative mode of communication as the student's primary mode of communication, the student shall be permitted to have the student's hands free of restraint for brief periods, unless an employee determines that such freedom appears likely to result in harm to self or others;
4. Nothing in this rule shall be construed as limiting or eliminating any immunity conferred by Iowa Code section 280.21 or any other provision of law.

**ITEM 8.** Amend **281—Chapter 103**, implementation sentence, as follows:

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code ~~Supplement section~~ sections 256B.3 and 280.21 and ~~1990 Iowa Acts, chapter 1218.~~